

House Republican Press Release

April 18, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Rep. Frey: State Residents Still Among the Most Heavily Taxed in Nation



HARTFORD - State Rep. John H. Frey, R-Ridgefield, today said that while residents of some states began to see “Tax Freedom Day” in early April, Connecticut citizens will wait until May 3 to reach their own tax freedom day. The term refers to the number of days the average resident will have worked to his/her total tax bill. The day after that time period is called “Tax Freedom Day.”

According to the Tax Foundation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has monitored tax policy at the federal, state and local levels since 1937, Alaska reaches tax freedom day earliest (April 2), while Connecticut is the last state in nation to see Tax Freedom Day, on May 3.

“What remains somewhat astonishing is the fact that although we are the still the most heavily-taxed state in the nation, there are more and more proposals to hike taxes working their way through the State Capitol each year,” said Rep. Frey, who serves as an Assistant Minority Leader. “Certain legislators seem committed to pushing Connecticut’s tax freedom day as far back as possible, rather than ever considering reducing state spending.”

Majority party leaders have, in fact, proposed their latest version of the “Millionaires’ Tax,” said Rep. Frey. Under this proposal (SB 1321), income taxes would be increased on state residents earning more than \$133,800. Such bills ignore the fact that the top 25 percent of all filers (those earning \$75,000 and more) already pay 80 percent of all Connecticut state income taxes, said Rep. Frey. They also seemed to have forgotten the ½ percent increase on all tax filers that became occurred last year.

Rep. Frey added that Democrat leaders have also proposed a number of bills to increase taxes on state businesses. These bills include measures that would: Create “unitary” financial reporting, which could increase taxes on Connecticut-based corporations by taxing revenue generated in other states; “Sunset” tax credits for corporations and require the legislature to reauthorize them every two years and force companies with more than 100 employees to pay a special tax if they fail to offer adequate health insurance to their employees. Several proposals would also increase the state sales tax.

“There are quite a few bills to either increase taxes on individuals or businesses that will be coming before the Legislature between now and our June 8 adjournment,” said Rep. Frey, who serves as a member of the Legislature’s tax-writing Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. “The majority of these bills would harm the state’s economy and hike taxes on some of the most overburdened taxpayers in the country and I expect to be voicing my opposition to these tax proposals in the coming weeks.”